## **CLAIMS**

We Claim:

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A method of transferring data across a computer
network, said computer network including a plurality
of computers, a database stored on one of said
plurality of computers, said method comprising the
steps of:

setting data transfer constraints;

requesting transfer of data stored on a remote computer system;

identifying at least one object included in said requested data as being associated with a generic object; and

substituting the generic object for each of said at least one object responsive to said data transfer constraints.

- 2. A method as in claim 1 wherein said stored data includes image and sound data.
- 3. A method as in claim 2, wherein image data is requested by a user for display on a web browser, said generic object being substituted in a web browser image, said method further comprising:

  displaying said web browser image.
- 1 4. A method as in claim 3, wherein the remote computer system identifies generic objects.
- 5. A method as in claim 4, wherein while the web browser image is being displayed, the remote

3	computer s	(stem	is	trans	sferring	generic	object	codes
4	associated	vith	rel	Lated	images.			

6. A method as in claim 5 wherein when related images are displayed, said generic objects associated with said transferred generic object codes are substituted in said displayed related images.

7. A method as in claim 6 wherein a requested object is transferred while a corresponding generic object is being displayed and further comprising:

replacing and displaying each corresponding generic object with each said requested object when said requested object is received.

- R. A method as in claim 7, wherein the data transfer constraints include a peak net traffic constraint, a client quick mode constraint, a server quick mode constraint and an importance level.
- 9. A method as in claim 8, wherein when said importance level is high, data is transferred from said database and the web browser image is displayed normally.
- 1 10. A method as in claim 8, wherein when peak net
- 2 traffic is below said peak net traffic constraint,
- data is transferred from said database and the web
- 4 browser image is displayed normally.

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1	1. A method as in claim 8, wherein when said
2	client quick mode constraint is not selected, data
3	is transferred from said database and the web
4	browser image is displayed normally.
1	12. A method as in claim 8, wherein when said
2	server quick mode constraint is not selected, data
3	is transferred from said database and the web
4	browser image is displayed normally.
1	13. A method as in claim 5, wherein while the web
2	browser image is being displayed, the remote
3	computer system is further transferring additional
4	generic objects associated with said related images.
1	14. An interface device for connecting to and
2	retrieving data from a remote computer system, said
3	interface device comprising:
4	means for setting data transfer constraints;
5	means for requesting data from a remote
6	computer system;
7	means for storing a plurality of generic
8	objects, each stored generic object corresponding to
9	an original object in data requested from said
LO	remote computer system;
L1	means for substituting each stored said generic
L2	objects for said corresponding object; and
L3	means for outputting said requested data, said
L 4	output data selectively including said generic
L5	objects or corresponding original objects responsive

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to said data transfer constraints.

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- 1 15. The interface device as in claim 14, wherein 2 the outputting means is a video display.
- 1 16. The interface device as in claim 14, wherein 2 the interface device is a speaker.
  - 17. A method of compressing digital images, comprising the steps of:
    - (a) identifying objects in a digital image;
    - b) identifying names of identified objects;
    - c) identifying a position of identified objects;
    - d) identifying a position relative to one of said identified objects in the digital image;
    - e) identifying characteristics of the identified objects;
    - f) replacing identified objects with generic objects, position data and characteristics; and,
    - g) sending the modified digital image to a client system for display.
- 1 18. A method of restoring a compressed image 2 comprising the steps of: a) identifying 3 generic objects in received image data;
- b) identifying corresponding objects in subsequently received data;
  - c) replacing said identified generic objects with said corresponding objects; and
    - d) displaying said image.
- 1 19. A computer program product for transferring 2 data across a computer network, said computer

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5 6 network including a plurality of computers, a database stored on one of said plurality of computers, said computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code means for setting data transfer constraints;

computer readable program code means for requesting transfer of data stored on a remote computer system

computer readable program code means for identifying at least one object included in said requested data as being associated with a generic object; and

computer readable program code means for substituting the generic object for each of said at least one object responsive  $t\delta$  said data transfer constraints.

A computer program product as in claim 19, wherein image data is requested by a user for display on a web browser, said generic object being substituted in a web browser image, said computer program product further comprising:

computer readable program code including a database with a plurality of generic objects.

21. A computer program product as in claim 20, further comprising:

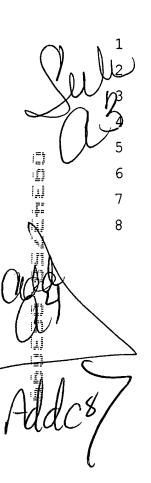
computer readable program code for transferring additional generic objects associated with related images while the web browse  $\mathbf{k}$  image is being displayed.

1 22. A computer program product as in claim 21, 2 further comprising:

computer readable program code for substituting said additional objects for said related object when a related image is displayed.

23. A computer program product as in claim 20, further comprising:

computer readable program code for transferring requested object while a corresponding generic object is being displayed and when said requested object is received. replacing and displaying each corresponding generic object with each said requested object.



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